

SALT II VERIFICATION WORRIES STEVENSON

BY JOHN H. AVERILL
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The new strategic arms limitation treaty fails to provide for adequate verification of Soviet compliance with the agreement's terms, says Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson (D-Ill.), chairman of a Senate subcommittee charged with studying the verification problem.

Stevenson also suggests, however, that the United States might be in a worse position without the SALT II accord than with it because the treaty prohibits both sides from hiding its missile forces.

So, Stevenson said in an interview Wednesday, he is undecided whether he will vote for or against the pact. He said his major concern with the SALT II is that it permits both countries to augment their strategic forces

rather than putting a lid on the arms race.

Stevenson is chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee's subcommittee on collection, production and quality, which for the last year has been studying the verification issue at the request of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sen. Frank Church (D-Ida.), chairman of the committee, has said that arms treaty, must meet two tests for his committee to recommend that the Senate approve it, they are:

—That it does not give the Soviet Union an undue advantage.

—That compliance with the treaty's terms is verifiable.

If these tests are not met then "all bets are off," Church said.

Although the full Intelligence Committee has not yet decided whether the treaty is verifiable, Stevenson's conclusion that it is not is certain to compound the treaty's difficulties in the Senate.

"This is not an adequately verifiable treaty but we might be worse off with nothing to monitor at all," Stevenson said. His position appeared to parallel that of Pentagon officials on this issue.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown argues that with or without the SALT II treaty, U.S. intelligence needs to know as much as possible about Soviet missiles and other strategic forces. He said that task would be complicated without an arms agreement because there would be nothing to bar the Soviets from trying to hide their missiles.